

January 11, 2010

Good Evening to The Appropriations Committee

My name is Christopher Yarmolovich and I am here this evening to speak to you on behalf of The Children's Trust Fund /Nurturing Families Network Program.

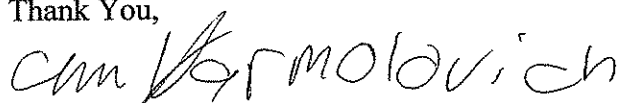
I have been an active participant of The Nurturing Families Home Visiting Program since March of 2005 when my wife was expecting our first child. Through the Nurturing Families Home Visiting Program we are able to receive in-home weekly visits by a highly trained professional, compassionate and warm hearted human being our Home Visitor that helped us not only to understand the importance of becoming a nurturing parent and the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect. But she provided us with many opportunities to educate us in the areas of prenatal and delivery, child development, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Housing, Mental Health Services, School Readiness, Advocacy and connecting us with services in our community.

I have also participated in a 10 week ABC Transition to School Parenting Group where I learned the importance of Advocacy and how to become actively involved in my child's educational transitioning to school and his overall educational progress. I am presently participating in a 23 weeks Nurturing Parenting Group where I am focusing more in the area of child development and improving my parenting skills.

Challenges are there everyday but I feel confident that with the opportunities granted to me by The Nurturing Families Program I have learned the necessary tools and skills to feel and trust myself as a skilled parent. This has been possible by the relationships build along the way with The Nurturing Families Program Staff at Catholic Charities Southside Family Center.

I encourage you to reconsider the negative impact that will cause the elimination of The Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Network Program can cause to many families like mine around the State of Connecticut. At the same time I encourage you to look at the many families that on a voluntary basis enroll in this program willingly in order to improve their quality of life and the life of their children. If we take a look, it will be less costly than the cost paid by the children being raised under abusive and neglectful home environments which later on will become the future citizens of the State of Connecticut.

Thank You,


Christopher Yarmolovich